

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW
TELEGRAM

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Department of State

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DEPT now believes there is possibility group of six or seven members House Foreign Affairs, Appropriations and Armed Services Committees might be disposed accept Bundestag invitation for 10-12 day visit to FEDREP starting about Feb 15. Senate participation unlikely at this time but not completely excluded for future. /While we recognize Germans had in mind visit of longer duration, apparently most difficult for members Congress get away longer at this time.

Embassy requested sound out Gerstenmaier and Trossmann regarding accept-ability of group at time mentioned. If response positive Embassy should suggest to Gerstenmaier that he send blanket invitations forthwith to Speaker of House and also to Vice-President as presiding officer of Senate despite fact latter invitation will probably not be acted on at this time.

On receipt Embassy's reply, which requested urgently owing shortness time interval, DEPT will discuss subject further with appropriate officers of House, attempt get names of participants. After informing you of names, DEPT will turn matter over to German Embassy here. Suggest Trossmann may wish inform Foreign Office when original invitations sent and that Gerstenmaier may want invite participants individually either directly or through German Embassy when names known.

State Dept. review completed

FYI on basis previous discussions with Trossmann we have advised Congress

Drafted by: EUR:GER:GPA:JDean:pr 1/22/57
Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: Robert C. Creel

H - Mr. Leahy

GER - Mr. Lisle

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informally Bundestag would pay all transportation, hotel, and restaurant expenses and that itinerary would probably include appointments with Chancellor, some cabinet ministers, leading politicians, also visit to Berlin and few main cities of FEDREP with opportunity meet leading Germans in fields of special interest to participants.

URTEL 2786 received after foregoing message drafted. DEPT has no knowledge

that Congressional delegation planning visit to Strasbourg, is making further enquiries. Even if Trossmann's information confirmed, presume Germans would prefer directly invite a Congressional group specifically for purpose of visiting FEDREP rather than utilizing Council of Europe trip. Latter could serve either as alternate possibility if February trip does not come off, or could be used as occasion to invite second group if desired. However, DEPT' willing explore Council of Europe idea if Congressional delegation does intend to participate should Germans prefer it on ~~Germans should prefer it on economy or other grounds~~ economy or other ground.

DULLES